

HOUSE BILL 2003
By Dunn

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 9,
relative to the University of Tennessee.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 9, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 7 of this act as a new part.

SECTION 2. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "University of Tennessee - External Degree Program Act of 1996".

SECTION 3. The General Assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that:

- (a) every citizen of the State of Tennessee should have access to a post-secondary education;
- (b) disability, age or economic circumstance may prevent potential students from enrolling in and pursuing traditional undergraduate residential programs;
- (c) therefore, the General Assembly recommends that the University of Tennessee research, develop and establish an alternative approach to the traditional undergraduate educational experience;
- (d) and such alternative educational experience shall be named the "External Degree Program".

SECTION 4. The University of Tennessee shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to establish and operate the "External Degree Program"; such rules and regulations are to include the minimum requirements set forth in this act.

SECTION 5. For admission to the "External Degree Program", an applicant shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) be a resident of Tennessee;
- (b) be 21 years of age or older;
- (c) have a high school diploma or a GED score of not less than 45;
- (d) have competency in writing, the ability to read discerningly, and the ability to assume the primary responsibility for learning;
- (e) have educational goals attainable through the "External Degree Program".

SECTION 6. The "External Degree Program" shall allow credit to be earned towards a bachelor degree by any of the following:

- (a) on-campus courses;
- (b) out-of-class learning contracts;
- (c) correspondence courses; or
- (d) prior learning.

SECTION 7. Academic planning may be conducted by telephone or written correspondence.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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